

**Trails & Open Space Committee**  
 September 20, 2021 • Special Meeting Minutes

FINAL REPORT

<i>TOS Committee Members</i>			
Karen Aaron VJ Bonnard <del>Richard Bothwell</del> Gayle Dana (Vice Chair)	Lorna Dobrovolny John Groom (Staff Lead) Benjamin Levine (Chair)	Livia Quan Ellen Raynor Graham Reid	Peter Sawyer (Vice Chair) Julie Thornton Dustin Young
<i>Affiliated Staff:</i> None			
<i>Liaisons:</i> Courtney Murrell (BOD)			
<i>TOS Subcommittee Members:</i> Nan Meek (EM)			
<i>TDA Staff:</i> None			
<i>Guests:</i> None			

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**1.** The meeting of the Trails & Open Space Committee (TOS) was called to order at 3:00 PM with a quorum present.

**2. Non-Agenda Comments:** There were no non-agenda member comments.

**3. The 2022 Land Management Budget:** The TOS reviewed the capital portion of Tahoe Donner’s land management budget.

With regard to Replacement Reserve Fund (RRF) projects, staff updated the TOS on the status and funding for the Euer Valley Restoration, Phase 1 and South Euer Valley Road projects. Although not necessarily reflected in the 2022 budget, the RRF burden for both projects may be reduced partially, and perhaps substantially, through the application of public grant monies. Staff also clarified the scope and purpose of several smaller planned projects.

Funding for the Trails and Open Space Master Plan is partly provided for in the 2022 RRF schedule, and partly rolled-over from unused funds that had been designated for Trails Master Plan development in the 2021 RRF schedule. These combined funds are anticipated to be sufficient for the scope of work required.

In the past, Tahoe Donner has annually reserved and accumulated funding for the purpose of land acquisition. This funding was absent from the 2021 budget, and is also absent from the proposed

2022 budget. Funding for potential future land acquisition may warrant further discussion at the committee and board levels.

With the arrival of a new Director of Land Management and the anticipation of a new Trails and Open Space Master Plan, 2022 is in many respects a transitional year for Tahoe Donner's trail system. While several large-scale and non-discretionary projects are proceeding, there may be a brief discretionary project pause for a portion of 2022 to better ensure that significant discretionary trail system spending aligns with the goals and strategies specified in the new Trails and Open Space Master Plan.

#### **4. Incidental Discussions:**

- **External Trail System Funding:** A number of TOS members expressed interest in talking about potential external trail system funding sources (additional grants, donations, and so forth) in the context of the new Trails and Open Space Master Plan.

- **Class 1 Paved Trail:** The TOS briefly discussed the scope of the proposed Class 1 trail from the Trout Creek Trailhead to the ACAC. Further discussion of this recreational and active transportation project is expected in the context of the Trails and Open Space Master Plan.

- **Employee Housing:** Hiring and retention and shortfalls in the Trails and Forestry Departments caused by a lack of affordable employee housing continue to cast a dark shadow over the TOS's discussions and the Land Management Department's planning and operations. The TOS briefly discussed the most effective means to raise this concern to the board and other Tahoe Donner committees. Once the Long-Range Planning Committee (LRPC) forms, the TOS may begin a conversation with that group so they better understand the negative effect that a lack of affordable employee housing is having on the Association's land management operations.

5. The TOS meeting was adjourned at 4:30 PM.

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